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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

SUBJECT: Biennial Report - 1958-60  
TO: Honorable David H. Kurtzman  
Secretary of Administration  
FROM: Richard Gerstell  
Director of Civil Defense

September 23, 1960

one  
copy  
given to  
Mr.  
Stein  
6-29-60

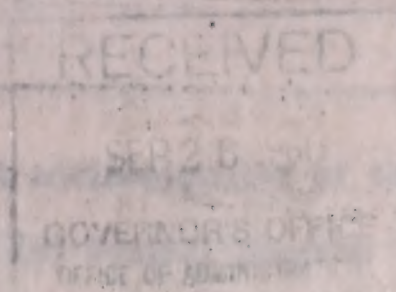
As requested in your memorandum of June 28, we are forwarding herewith four (4) copies of the 1958-60 Biennial Report of the State Council of Civil Defense.

As suggested in the above mentioned memorandum, the enclosed report has been prepared in brief narrative form, outlining major agency achievements during the biennium.

More detailed information concerning Council activities may, if desired, be obtained either from Mr. Craig A. Williamson, Operations Officer, or from the writer.

RG:ekw

Enclosures









and reduction of emergency of BIENNIAL REPORT both for the Commonwealth as

a whole and for a STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE within the State.

(June 1, 1958 through May 31, 1960)

INTRODUCTION

The State Council of Civil Defense, since its formal creation in March of 1951, has carried out, under the provisions of the State Council of Civil Defense Act of 1951, P.L. 28, as amended, a six-part program of activities. This is aimed at the development and maintenance of an effective program for the civil defense of the Commonwealth. Each of the Council's six major fields of activity, or services, is briefly described below, with emphasis on progress made during the 1958-60 biennium.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

These activities are concerned with over-all administration of the statewide civil defense program. They include: (a) General program supervision; (b) collection and disbursement of federal grants-in-aid; (c) distribution of federal surplus property for civil defense purposes; (d) reimbursement of other Commonwealth departments and agencies for authorized flood relief and control work; (e) payment of compensation for accidental injuries sustained by duly enrolled civil defense volunteers; and (f) general office services.

The biennium was marked by general strengthening of the statewide civil defense program, particularly as related to emergency operational planning. This was made possible, in part, by a federal grant of approximately \$200,000.00. The money was used for the development



MINIMUM REPORT

STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE

(June 1, 1958 through May 31, 1960)

INTRODUCTION

The State Council of Civil Defense, since its formal creation in March of 1951, has carried out, under the provisions of the State Council of Civil Defense Act of 1951, P.L. 56, an extended, a step-by-step program of activities. This is aimed at the development and maintenance of an effective program for the civil defense of the Commonwealth. Each of the Council's six major fields of activity, or services, is briefly described below, with emphasis on progress made during the 1958-59 biennium.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

These activities are concerned with over-all administration of the statewide civil defense program. They include: (a) General program supervision; (b) collection and dissemination of federal grants-in-aid; (c) allocation of federal surplus property for civil defense purposes; (d) reimbursement of other Commonwealth departments and agencies for authorized fixed costs and contract work; (e) payment of compensation for accidental injuries sustained by duly enrolled civil defense volunteers; and (f) general office services.

The biennium was marked by general strengthening of the statewide civil defense program, particularly as related to emergency operational planning. This was made possible, in part, by a federal grant of approximately \$200,000.00. The money was used for the development



and revision of emergency operational plans both for the Commonwealth as a whole and for a number of the major target complexes within the State.

Federal contributions toward the purchase of emergency equipment, materials and supplies (provided on a dollar-for-dollar "matching" basis), totaled roughly \$1,325,000.00. Of this total, approximately \$165,000.00 was "matched" and utilized by the State Council of Civil Defense and the remainder by political subdivisions of the Commonwealth. A major portion of all expenditures was made for the purchase and installation of emergency communications equipment.

The estimated total value (based on original acquisition costs) of surplus federal property distributed during the two-year period was approximately \$3,500,000.00. The State Council of Civil Defense, together with roughly 500 county and local civil defense organizations, participated in the program. The property acquired included motor trucks and trailers, amphibious vehicles, electric power generators, communications equipment, first aid supplies and countless minor items.

During the biennium, Commonwealth flood relief and control activities associated with the floods of 1955 and 1956 (financed out of a special \$12,000,000.00 disaster relief appropriation made in 1955) were all but "closed out". In addition, a total of \$3,000,000.00 (\$2,500,000.00 allocated for use by the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries and \$500,000.00 by the Department of Forests and Waters) was appropriated to the Council for emergency operations necessitated by the floods of January 1959. Of this total, approximately \$2,000,000.00 has been expended in connection with the so-called "Pittston mine flood disaster", resulting from the flooding of underground mining properties in Luzerne County, by waters from the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. (A federal contribution



and revision of emergency operational plans for the Commonwealth as a whole and for a number of the major target companies within the State.

Federal contributions toward the purchase of emergency equipment, materials and supplies (provided on a dollar-for-dollar "matching" basis), totaled roughly \$1,125,000.00. Of this total, approximately \$125,000.00 was "matched" and utilized by the State Council of Civil Defense and the remainder by political subdivisions of the Commonwealth. A major portion of all expenditures was made for the purchase and installation of emergency communications equipment.

The estimated total value (based on original acquisition costs) of surplus Federal property distributed during the two-year period was approximately \$1,500,000.00. The State Council of Civil Defense, together with roughly 200 county and local civil defense organizations, participated in the program. The property acquired included motor trucks and trailers, amphibious vehicles, electric power generators, communications equipment, fuel and supplies and numerous other items.

During the planning, Commonwealth flood relief and control activities associated with the floods of 1955 and 1956 (financed out of a special \$12,000,000.00 disaster relief appropriation made in 1955) were all but "closed out". In addition, a total of \$3,000,000.00 (\$2,500,000.00 allocated for use by the Department of Game and Natural Resources and \$500,000.00 by the Department of Forests and Waters) was appropriated to the Council for emergency operations associated by the floods of January 1955. Of this total, approximately \$2,000,000.00 has been expended in connection with the so-called "Pittston river flood disaster", resulting from the flooding of underground mining operations in Luzerne County, by water from the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. (A Federal contribution



in excess of \$1,000,000.00 is expected to be made in this connection.)

State flood relief and control expenditures in Western Pennsylvania will

require the full \$500,000.00 sum appropriated therefor. (Federal flood relief assistance extended to political subdivisions in the same area --

all such assistance is "paid through" the Council -- will total approximately \$250,000.00.)

#### WARNING AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

These activities are concerned with the over-all coordination and general supervision of statewide attack warning and emergency communications systems and facilities. They include: (a) Operation of the intra-state portion of the National Warning System; (b) lease and operation of the Bell-and-Lights Instantaneous Air Raid Warning System; and (c) installation and operation of emergency communications networks, both land line and radio.

The 1958-1960 biennium was marked by installation of a joint State Council of Civil Defense - Pennsylvania Game Commission Radio System. This new system provides the Council with a statewide emergency operational network and serves the Commission's law enforcement and administrative requirements. The major portion of the total cost of the system, roughly \$500,000.00, was paid by the Commission, but federal reimbursement equal to 50% of the total is anticipated.

County and local emergency radio communications facilities were greatly expanded during the two-year period. The end result is that approximately 50 counties now own and operate county-wide fire or police radio networks, all available for use in civil defense emergencies.



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### TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

These activities are concerned with the over-all coordination and  
general supervision of statewide disaster warning and emergency communications  
systems and facilities. They include: (a) Operation of the inter-state  
portion of the National Warning System; (b) tests and operation of the  
self-and-lighting intercomunications Air Radio Warning System; and (c) installation  
and operation of emergency communications networks, both land line and  
radio.

The 1955-1960 program was funded by installation of a Joint State  
Council of Civil Defense -- Pennsylvania's State Council Radio System.  
This new system provides the Council with a statewide emergency communications  
network and serves the Council's law enforcement and administrative  
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to 50% of the total is anticipated.

County and local emergency radio communications facilities were greatly  
expanded during the two-year period. The end result is that approximately  
30 counties now own and operate county-wide fire or police radio networks.  
All available for use in civil defense emergencies.



## PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The services are concerned with the statewide coordination of county and local firefighting, police, home and industrial protection plans and programs.

The major advance in the protective services field was the inauguration, in January 1960, of a new program providing for the statewide establishment of numerous so-called "Survival Units". These are neighborhood, or small-group, self-protection organizations. They are specially designed to meet not only natural disaster problems, but also the extreme exigencies of nuclear warfare. This new program replaces the now-out-moded "warden system", developed and followed during World War II.

## MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

These activities are concerned with the coordination of State, county and local emergency medical and health plans and programs. The latter relate to: (a) Evacuation and care of the injured and homeless; (b) defense against biological, chemical and radiological warfare; and (c) maintenance and security of Commonwealth emergency medical stockpiles.

The 1958-60 biennium was marked by major expansion of the so-called "emergency hospital pre-positioning program". Under this program, more than 160 two-hundred-bed emergency hospital units, furnished by the Federal Government and valued at some \$5,000,000.00, are now stored at strategic locations throughout the State. Each unit includes operating tables, an x-ray machine, surgical instruments, basic medical supplies, beds, an electric power generator and all other essentials required for emergency operation. They can either be set-up and placed in operation at the storage site, or else rapidly moved to other points where they may be needed.



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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The 1958-60 plan was marked by major expansion of the so-called "emergency hospital pre-positioning program". Under this program, more than 100 pre-positioned emergency hospital units, furnished by the Federal Government and valued at some \$5,000,000.00, are now stored at strategic locations throughout the State. Each unit includes operating tables, an x-ray machine, surgical instruments, basic medical supplies, beds, an electric power generator and all other essentials required for emergency operation. They can either be set-up and placed in operation at the

[https://archive.org/details/biennialreportst00stat\\_0](https://archive.org/details/biennialreportst00stat_0)



During the two-year period, federal supply of radiation detection instruments was also markedly increased. All major high schools within the State now have a set of detection instruments available both for academic training and for possible emergency use. Furthermore, there now are within the State more than 350 fixed monitoring stations, with both instruments and trained personnel at all times available for emergency operations. Of these stations, 110 are operated by departments and agencies of the Commonwealth Government, while county and local agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, operate the remainder.

#### TRAINING SERVICES

These activities are concerned primarily with the basic training of key personnel, from county and local civil defense organizations, in specialized civil defense techniques, including radiological defense, human rescue, "household" firefighting and others.

During the biennium, the Council's radiological monitoring instructors' training program was vigorously pushed forward. Approximately 60 counties now have trained monitoring instructors, with all the instruments and equipment required locally to train radiation monitors for emergency operations. In addition, instructors who previously had received special Council training, instructed more than 4,000 registered nurses in the principles and practices of mass emergency care.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES

These activities are concerned with the preparation and dissemination of essential emergency information to civil defense and other governmental officials and to the public.



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#### TRAINING SERVICES

These activities are concerned primarily with the basic training of lay personnel, from county and local civil defense organizations, in specialized civil defense techniques, including radiological defense, human resources, "household" firefighting and others.

During the biennium, the Council's radiological monitoring instructors' training program was vigorously pushed forward. Approximately 60 counties now have trained monitoring instructors, with all the instruments and equipment required locally to train radiation monitors for emergency operations. In addition, instructors who previously had received special Council training, instructed more than 4,000 registered nurses in the techniques and practices of mass emergency care.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES

These activities are concerned with the preparation and dissemination of essential emergency information to civil defense and other governmental officials and to the public.



During the biennium, special emphasis was placed on a program designed to provide residents of the Commonwealth with essential information concerning the need for and value of fallout shelters. As a part of this program, three special home shelter exhibition units were constructed and made available for display throughout the Commonwealth. These are in the form of van type truck trailers in which a typical family fallout shelter, designed for use by a family of five, has been constructed. During the first six weeks of display, at the end of the biennium, roughly 150,000 Pennsylvanians viewed the three units.

#### RELATED ACTIVITIES

In 1959, the Council sponsored, the General Assembly enacted and the Governor approved special legislation designed to assure the continued, orderly functioning of government, State, county and local, during periods of emergency. This legislation not only provides for emergency lines of succession to the key offices of government, executive, legislative and judicial, but also authorizes the conduct of government business at emergency relocation sites, should existing exigencies render such action necessary or advisable.

#### SUMMARY

The 1958-60 biennium witnessed significant advancement of the statewide civil defense program. Outstanding progress was made in the communications, medical and health, and training services. These, together with more limited advances in other activities, now provide a sound, basic framework of emergency organization. This is capable not only of effective action in natural disaster, but also of the rapid expansion required to meet the problems of nuclear warfare.



During the summer, special hospitals were placed on a program designed to provide residents of the Commonwealth with essential information concerning the need for and value of relief shelters. As a part of this program, these special home shelter exhibition units were constructed and made available for display throughout the Commonwealth. These are in the form of two types: trailers in which a typical family shelter shelter, designed for use by a family of five, has been constructed. During the first six weeks of display, at the end of the summer, roughly 120,000 Pennsylvania viewed the three units.

RELIEF ACTIVITIES

In 1933, the Council sponsored the General Assembly enacted and the Governor approved special legislation designed to assure the continued orderly functioning of government, state, county and local, during periods of emergency. This legislation not only provides for emergency lines of communication to the key offices of government, executive, legislative and judicial, but also authorizes the conduct of government business by emergency relocation also, should existing facilities render such action necessary or advisable.

SUMMARY

The 1933-34 session witnessed significant advancement of the state-wide civil defense program. Outstanding progress was made in the construction, medical and health, and training services. These, together with more limited advances in other activities, now provide a sound, basic framework of emergency organization. This is capable not only of effective action in natural disaster, but also of the rapid expansion required to meet the problems of nuclear warfare.